



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, December 8, 2008
Contact: Lieutenant Larry Gonzalez
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Identity Thieves Arrested

Riverside, CA – Riverside Police arrested two suspects Thursday, December 4, for their roles in a vehicle theft, several burglaries, and numerous identity thefts.

William HOUTS, 32, and his wife, Shannon HOUTS, 36, of Beaumont, were arrested on charges including Vehicle Theft, Burglary, Identity Theft, Forgery, Possession of Stolen Property, and Possession of Controlled Substances. Both were fugitives with outstanding felony warrants. They were booked into Robert Presley Detention Center.

On Thursday, December 4, 2008, at approximately 3:45 PM, police received information regarding a suspicious vehicle casing the parking lot of the Canyon Crest Country Club. An officer responded and contacted the suspects in the vehicle. William Houts falsely identified himself with an ID he'd forged using his own photo and the personal information of one of his victims. The officer quickly discovered his true identity and took him into custody after a brief struggle. Both suspects were found to have felony warrants for their arrest. The vehicle they were driving had been reported stolen after it was discovered they purchased it with a stolen identity.

Detectives were called to the scene to continue the investigation. Inside the suspect vehicle, they located stolen property they have linked to 11 separate victims, most of whom reported the suspects had stolen their identities and opened numerous lines of credit in their names. Detectives located stolen credit cards, forged identifications, and burglary tools, along with a computer the suspects used for falsifying documents and making on-line purchases with the victims' credit information.

On Monday, December 8, 2008, Detectives continued their investigation, which lead them to a motel in Beaumont where the suspects were living. Stolen property from over 50 victims was recovered from the suspects' motel room.

These suspects are known to have struck victims at fitness clubs and golf courses from the Palm Springs area to Irvine, and as far south as Temecula. Riverside Police are continuing to investigate these crimes and are working with detectives from surrounding agencies also affected by these suspects.

Anyone with information pertaining to these or similar cases are asked to contact Riverside Police Detective Charles Payne at (951) 351-6289.